

D. J. Cox

BOROUGH OF



WATFORD

Annual Report

ON

Health, Sanitary Conditions

ETC.

FOR THE YEAR 1937, BY

William J. Cox, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health. Medical Officer Maternity
and Child Welfare Scheme, Medical Superintendent of
Watford Joint Isolation Hospital. Assistant School
Medical Officer, Herts. County Council.

INCLUDING REPORTS ON
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS. WATFORD DENTAL
CLINIC AND WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL

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WATFORD
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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,
1 ST. ALBANS ROAD,
WATFORD.

June, 1938.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF WATFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Sixteenth Annual Report, which is also the Sixteenth Health Report of the Borough of Watford.

It is actually the Sixty-fifth Annual Report for this district, as it was preceded by forty-nine Health Reports of the former Urban District.

This year's report is an ordinary report and not the full Survey Report which is published every fifth year.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the valuable assistance I have received from various other officials of the Borough in carrying out my duties, and particularly from Mr. S. Jump, Senior Sanitary Inspector, whose help has been invaluable, particularly in connection with housing matters. I am also indebted to him for some of the statistical figures in this Report dealing with sanitary inspection, etc.

There are two very satisfactory features in this Annual Report. One is that the Maternal Mortality Rate for 1937 was nil, and the other that the Infant Mortality Rate was the lowest on record, being only 28.9 per 1,000 births, as compared with 58 for the whole country.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. COX.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent Isolation Hospital,

*Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme :—

WILLIAM J. COX, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Assistant Medical Officer (for Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics) :—

WINIFRED PIGGOTT, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.

*Assistant Medical Officer (for Wiggshall and North Watford Centres and also for Pre-School Clinic and Immunisation Centre) :—

MARGARET WARD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Dental Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Centre :—

SIDNEY W. FISK, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :—

S. JUMP, M.S.I.A., CERT. R. SAN. INST.

,, ,, ,, (Meat and Foods).

*Meat and Food Inspector :—

R. V. JACOB, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

,, ,, ,, (Meat and Foods).

*Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :—

A. W. NICOL, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

,, ,, ,, (Meat and Foods).

A. S. HIBBERT, CERT. R. SAN. INST.

,, ,, ,, (Meat and Foods).

Inspector under Shops Act :—

A. CORKE.

*Health Visitors :—

MISS G. M. HAMMOND, General Training, and C.M.B.
CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS ELSIE F. POTTER, General Training and C.M.B.
CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS M. ROBERTSON, General Training and C.M.B.
CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

MISS I. V. E. THURLEY, General Training and C.M.B.
CERT. HEALTH VISITOR, R. SAN. INST.

Clerks :—

(Public Health) R. A. SMITH.

(Maternity and Child Welfare) Miss G. M. BROADHEAD.

Miss S. HOOKER.

* Denotes salary contribution made by Exchequer grants.

I. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area—5,275 acres.

†Population to Mid-year 1937—64,880 (Registrar General's Estimate).

Number of inhabited houses—13,453 (Census, 1931).

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books, Dec. 31st, 1937, was approximately 17,500.

Number of families or separate occupiers—14,799 (Census 1931).

Rateable value—£577,577 (April 1st, 1937). (See further particulars below).

Sum represented by a penny rate—£2,350 (April 1st, 1938).

SOME FURTHER PARTICULARS OF RATEABLE VALUE OF THE BOROUGH ON 1st APRIL, 1938.

The following particulars have been kindly supplied by Mr. A. E. Barker, Chief Collector of Rates and Valuation Officer:—

	£	Rate Poundage for half-year beginning 1st April, 1938
Parish of Watford—No. 1 District ...	305,447	5/8 in £
Parish of Watford—No. 2 District ...	210,254	5/8 in £
Metropolitan Police District ...	21,217	5/8 in £
Leavesden, etc., Differential Rating Area ...	9,601	5/— in £
Nascot Wood, etc., Differential Rating Area	50,128	5/5 in £
	<u>£596,647</u>	

NOTE—The above includes the values in respect of Government Properties.

Water Rate for whole of Water Supply Area ... 6d. in £

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1937.

After correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	936	475	461	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15·4.
	{ Illegitimate	32	16	16	
Stillbirths	... ..	22			Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 22·7.
Deaths	... ..	630			Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 9·8.
Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—					

				Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	Nil	Nil
No. 30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	Nil	Nil
Total	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—					
	All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	28·9
	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	26·7
	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	93·2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	89
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	3

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF WATFORD.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of Watford at Mid Year 1937 is 64,880, and this figure has been adopted for compiling our local statistics.

BIRTH RATE.—The number of births in the Borough of Watford during the last year after correction for inward and outward transfers was 968 compared with 954 in 1936. This gives a Birth Rate of 14·9.

This Birth Rate is the same as that of the whole country for 1937 which was 14·9.

STILL BIRTHS.—Twenty-two still births were notified during the year compared with 25 in 1936. This gives a rate of .33 per 1,000 population as compared with .6 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

The following table is also interesting for purposes of comparison. In it the vital statistics for the Borough of Watford are compared with similar statistics for the whole country, London, and other groups of towns.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS.

TABLE A.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES, AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1937.

ENGLAND AND WALES, LONDON, 125 GREAT TOWNS AND 148 SMALLER TOWNS AND BOROUGH OF WATFORD.
(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales.	125 County Boroughs and Great Towns in- cluding London.	148 Smaller Towns (resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census).	London Administra- tive County.	WATFORD
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births:					
Live	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3	14.9
Still	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54	0.33
Deaths:					
All causes	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3	9.8
Typhoid and Para- typhoid fevers ...	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01
Scarlet Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough...	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.03
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.02
Influenza	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.25
Violence	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51	0.44
Notifications:					
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09	1.48
Diphtheria	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93	0.29
Enteric Fever ...	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.01
Erysipelas... ..	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44	0.26
Pneumonia	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18	0.52
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age... ..	58	62	55	60	28.9
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5.8	7.9	3.2	12.0	3.22
Maternal Mortality:					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.97	} Not available		{	0.00
Others	2.26				0.00
Total	3.23				0.00

POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN WATFORD SINCE 1890

YEAR	POPULATION estimated to middle of year	BIRTHS		DEATHS		
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate.	
1890	16,000	328	20·50	225	14·0	{ Census 1891 gave popula- tion as 16,819
1891	16,519	396	23·54	220	13·0	
1892	19,400	547	28·19	276	14·22	
1893	20,500	580	28·78	265	12·92	
1894	21,500	610	28·37	225	10·46	
1895	23,200	724	31·20	367	15·8	
1896	24,000	691	28·58	285	11·9	
1897	25,300	679	26·83	258	10·2	
1898	26,500	754	28·45	311	11·7	
1899	27,500	760	27·63	355	12·9	
1900	28,500	830	29·12	408	14·3	{ Census 1901 gave popula- tion as 29,327
1901	29,527	944	31·90	363	12·2	
1902	31,000	823	26·50	348	11·2	
1903	31,600	909	28·70	375	11·8	
1904	33,048	928	28·00	380	11·4	
1905	34,633	946	27·3	373	10·7	
1906	35,237	954	27·0	377	10·6	
1907	36,379	914	25·1	428	11·7	
1908	37,521	896	23·8	350	9·3	
1909	38,663	935	24·1	400	10·3	
1910	39,805	887	22·3	375	9·4	{ Census 1911 gave popula- tion as 40,939
1911	41,200	907	22·0	418	10·1	
1912	42,570	897	21·0	389	9·1	
1913	43,670	885	20·2	434	9·9	
1914	45,000	969	19·0	450	10·0	
1915	41,640	872	20·9	510	12·2	
1916	41,436	783	17·3	491	11·7	
1917	40,650	625	13·7	475	11·3	
1918	50,502	596	11·8	577	12·8	
1919	48,113	624	12·9	509	11·0	
1920	48,027	1,077	22·4	407	8·4	{ Census 1921 gave popula- tion as 45,910
1921	45,910	890	19·3	426	9·2	
1922	46,610	915	18·9	448	9·6	
1923	47,100	866	18·3	405	8·5	
1924	48,628	847	17·7	481	9·8	
1925	48,990	847	17·2	484	9·8	
1926	50,033	775	15·4	477	9·5	
1927	52,580	825	15·4	543	10·03	
1928	54,460	842	15·4	511	9·38	
1929	54,670	834	15·2	644	11·7	
1930	55,870	864	15·4	535	9·5	{ Census 1931 gave popula- tion as 56,799
1931	56,500	829	14·6	525	9·2	
1932	57,400	819	14·2	602	10·4	
1933	57,370	809	14·01	629	10·7	
1934	57,800	848	14·6	621	10·7	
1935	63,200	896	14·4	580	9·3	
1936	64,110	954	14·7	655	10·2	
1937	64,880	968	14·9	630	9·8	

Birth and Death rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths for the Borough after allowing for outward and inward transfers is, according to the Registrar-General's return, 630, as compared with 655 in the previous year.

The gives a *Death Rate* of 9.8 per 1,000 from all causes which compares favourably with London's Death Rate of 12.3 and with the Death Rate of the whole country, which was 12.4 per 1,000.

The following table gives a complete list of deaths from all causes.

TABLE B.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Male.	Female.
All Causes... ..					335	320
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...				—	—
2.	Measles				—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever				—	—
4.	Whooping Cough... ..				1	2
5.	Diphtheria... ..				1	1
6.	Influenza				11	13
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica				—	1
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever				—	—
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...				24	15
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases				1	1
11.	Syphilis				1	—
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis				2	—
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease				42	47
14.	Diabetes				4	5
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.				13	19
16.	Heart Disease				86	91
17.	Aneurysm				—	2
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases				17	17
19.	Bronchitis				12	12
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)				18	12
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases				1	1
22.	Peptic Ulcer				4	1
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)				1	2
24.	Appendicitis				3	—
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver... ..				—	1
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.				1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases				5	9
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis				—	5
29.	Puerperal Sepsis				—	—
30.	Other Puerperal Causes				—	—
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.				10	4
32.	Senility				14	17
33.	Suicide				6	3
34.	Other Violence				13	6
35.	Other Defined Diseases				23	22
36.	Causes-Ill-defined or Unknown... ..				—	1
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above):—						
	Smallpox				—	—
	Poliomyelitis				—	—

INFANT DEATHS.—Under the age of 12 months. These number 29, giving an *Infant Death Rate* of 28.9 per 1,000 births. It will be seen from the comparative table of Birth and Death Rates

given on page 8, that the Infant Death Rate of Watford is lower than that of London which is 60 and the whole country which is 58.

Particulars of the various causes of death under the age of 12 months are given in the following Table.

TABLE C.—DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

CAUSE.	Under 1 Month	1 to 3 Months	3 to 6 Months	6 to 9 Months	9 to 12 Months	TOTAL
Suffocation	1	1	—	—	—	2
Congenital Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Cardiac Disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	—	3	1	3	—	7
Nephritis	—	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital Debility, Malforma- tion and Prematurity ...	14	2	—	—	—	16
Gastritis and Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	1	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intestinal Hæmorrhage and obstruction	1	—	—	—	—	1
Laryngeal Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	16	6	2	4	—	28

FALL IN INFANT MORTALITY.

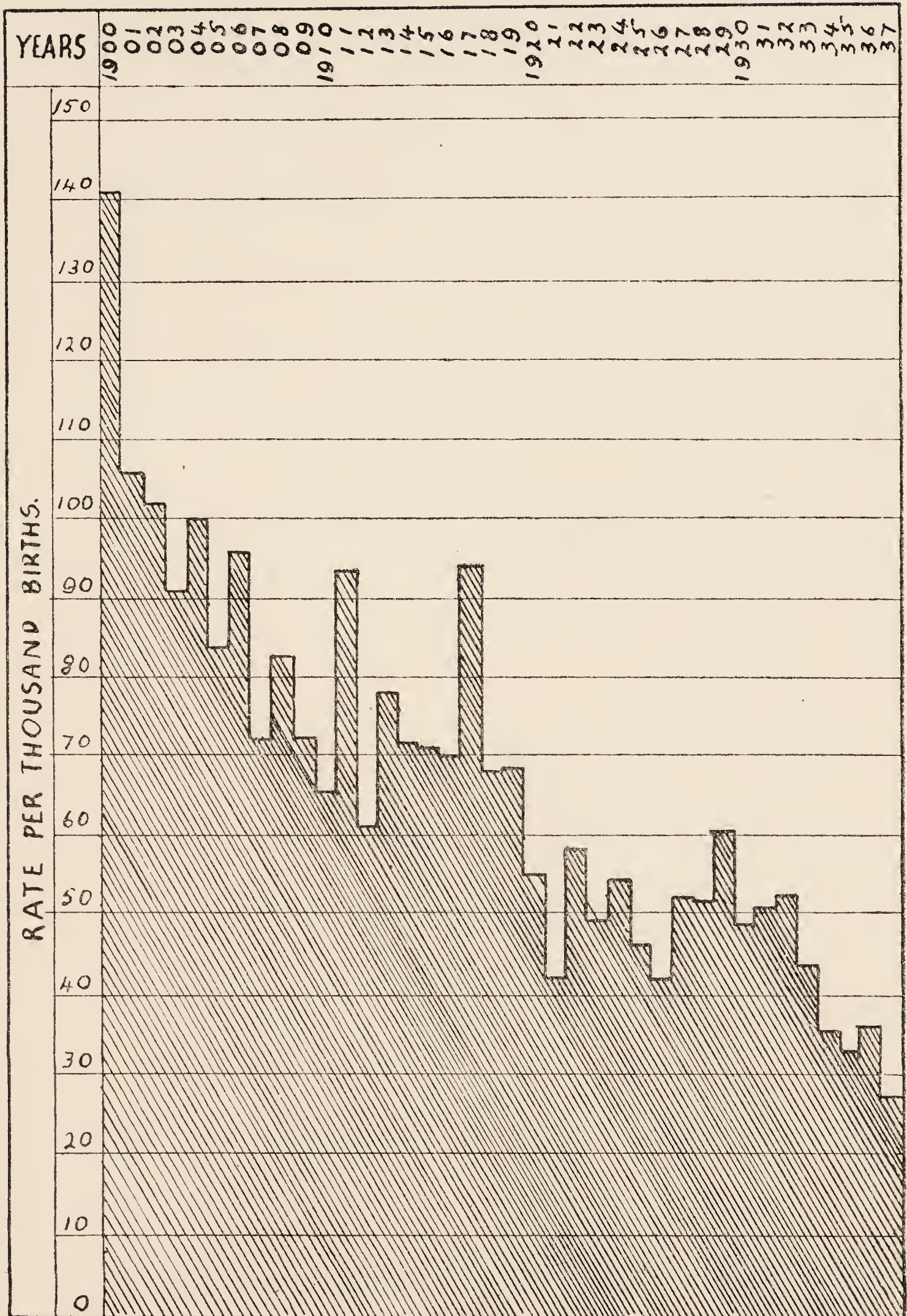
A glance at the Table on page 12 shows a remarkable fall in the Infant Mortality from over 140 in the year 1900 to the lowest figure on record last year—28.9. While this satisfactory state of affairs is mainly due to increased knowledge of infant care on the part of mothers, there have been other factors which have played an important part in this change for the better. Increased

attention to the subject on the part of midwives and the medical profession has led to the abolition of bad methods of feeding, and the work of infant welfare centres, maternity homes and health visitors has also assisted greatly.

Reference to Table C shows that although there was an increase of deaths from bronchitis from 5 to 7, no doubt due to the prevalence of influenza, this was more than counter-balanced by diminished mortality under the heading "Congenital Debility, etc." It therefore appears that there was great saving of infant life during the first month—when the diseases chiefly occur. This points in the direction of greater ante-natal and post-natal care. One is led to the conclusion that the ante-natal centres and maternity homes in the town may claim a large share of the credit for this beneficial change. The one institution deals with maternal health before child-birth, whilst the other ensures efficient infant care for the first fortnight at least.

INFANT MORTALITY IN WATFORD

This Diagram shows fall since the year 1900.



SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

The favourable social and physical conditions which prevail in the district and which undoubtedly tend in the direction of a low death rate have already been dealt with in previous reports.

They are mainly as follows—a dry, gravelly sub-soil, comparative absence of slums, and an atmosphere not heavily smoke laden. Domestic smoke is, however, still much in evidence in some parts of the borough, but the increasing use of gas and electricity for heating and cooking will in time lessen this contamination of the atmosphere. Fortunately, many of our large factories are electrically driven, which is all to the good in the matter of smoke prevention. Another local feature very favourable to the health of the locality is the large number of parks and open spaces in the district.

The following is a complete list of open spaces owned by the Corporation, in addition to the Corporation Farm and the Sewage Farm, and the allotments which are cultivated by numerous tenants.

Cassiobury Park, West Herts Golf Course and Whippendell Woods,
Oxhey Park,
Garston Park,
Bushey Mill Recreation Ground,
Callowland Recreation Ground,
Goodwood Recreation Ground,
Harebreaks Recreation Ground,
King George V Recreation Ground,
North Watford Playing Field,
Oxhey Grange Playing Field,
Waterfields Recreation Ground,
Watford Fields Recreation Ground,
Lea Farm Recreation Ground,
Leavesden Green Open Space,
Lea Farm Open Space,
Cassiobridge Common,
Watford Heath Common,
Open Spaces on Harebreaks Housing Estate.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN WATFORD

UNEMPLOYMENT IN WATFORD is not so serious as in some industrial districts, as the following figures (for which I am indebted to Mr. Salter, Manager of the Watford Labour Exchange) show.

On the date of the last official figures published, January 17th, 1938, the number of persons registered as unemployed at the Watford Employment Exchange was as follows :—

Men. 21-65	Young Men. 18-20	Boys. 14-17	Women. 21-65	Young Women. 18-20	Girls. 14-17	Total.
1,706	207	13	143	15	9	2,118

Included in these figures are 484 men and 157 men 18-20 at the Government Training Centre, Watford, who have mainly come from distressed areas and are now undergoing training. The figures also include 167 persons proving unemployment at the Boreham Wood branch of this Exchange.

The area covered by the Watford Employment Exchange includes Bushey, Elstree and Boreham Wood, Aldenham, Abbots Langley, part of King's Langley and Langleybury, and it is estimated that the number of persons unemployed in the *Borough of Watford* excluding the men at the Training Centre at the date mentioned above was approximately 1,245 persons.

II. PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

(See page 5)

(b) HOME NURSING AND MIDWIVES.

THE WATFORD AND DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION has its headquarters at 37 Langley Road. It was founded in 1935 as a branch of the Herts County Nursing Association and at first confined its activities to the area of the Borough of Watford.

It has nine nurses under the superintendence of Miss Dixon, and an assistant superintendent has been appointed. At the present time there are over 6,600 members of the Contributory Scheme but more are required. A new Home is urgently needed and a site has been purchased for this purpose.

An annual grant to the Society is made by the Watford Corporation.

The following is a list of visits paid by the staff of the Association in 1937 :—

Influenza	...	...	...	...	323
Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5
Lobar Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	454
Malta Fever	...	...	...	...	18
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	30
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	4
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	197
Mumps	...	...	...	...	10
Measles	...	...	...	...	32
Complications of Pregnancy	...	...	...	...	138
Complications occurring after Childbirth	...	...	...	...	592
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1,250

The supervision of Mental Defectives is also undertaken and during the last year 406 visits have been paid.

MIDWIVES. — The Herts. County Council is the supervising authority for Midwives, whose services may be engaged from the Home in King Street. In addition there are four midwives in private practice in the Borough, which is therefore well catered for in this respect. Arrangements are being made for the midwifery work formerly carried out by the Home in King Street to be undertaken by the District Nursing Association.

(c) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

For general pathological and other forms of laboratory investigation the medical practitioners of Watford usually rely upon the Peace Memorial Hospital. A Pathologist and whole time laboratory assistant have been appointed.

Diphtheria swabs from the Borough are sent to the Peace Memorial Hospital for examination; also certain other pathological specimens.

(d) **LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT WITH DATE OF ADOPTION.**

The undermentioned Acts have been adopted in the Borough of Watford :—

- The Infectious Disease (Notification Act), 1889.
- The Infectious Disease (Prevention Act), 1890.
- The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
- The Baths and Wash-houses Acts.

The Private Street Works Act, 1892.

The Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907 (part).

The Notification of Births Act, 1907.

The following Local Act and Orders are in force in the Borough of Watford :—

The Watford Urban District Council Act, 1909.

The Borough Council has made bye-laws or regulations for the following matters :—

New Streets and Buildings.

The Cleansing of Footways and Pavements.

Nuisances.

Common Lodging Houses.

Slaughter Houses.

Pleasure Grounds.

Bathing Place.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Offensive Trades.

Water Supply.

Commons.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Keeping of Poultry.

Dogs (fouling of public footways).

Smoke Abatement.

Wireless.

(e) MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

Watford is, in a sense, well supplied with Maternity Homes, but owing to the fact that these institutions also admit cases from outside the borough, the actual provision of accommodation for borough cases is inadequate. The following particulars show the numbers admitted at each institution in the town.

COUNTY MATERNITY HOME, KING STREET. This institution admitted 290 patients in the year 1937, of whom 154 were from the Borough of Watford.

SHRODELLS MATERNITY WARD admitted 104 cases, 58 of these being from the Borough of Watford.

STANBOROUGH MATERNITY HOME admitted 134 cases, 76 of these being cases from the Borough. Forty-four of these cases were attended by their own doctor in this home.

In addition to the three institutions mentioned there are several private nursing homes which admit maternity cases. These nursing homes admitted 46 cases from the Borough in addition to other cases not living in the Borough. The cost of treatment in a private nursing home varies from five to seven guineas a week. The charge for the fortnight's treatment at the King Street home is six guineas. There appears to be an increasing demand for this service and with the growth of the town it is obvious that in future increased accommodation will be necessary. Altogether, 334 cases were received into Maternity Homes during the year 1937 from the Borough of Watford.

(f) **MATERNAL MORTALITY.**

Watford is fortunate in being able to report that in the year 1937 no death occurred from puerperal pyrexia and none from the group of diseases known as "other puerperal causes". It is therefore able to report a "nil" return for maternal mortality as compared with a rate of 3.23 per 1,000 births for the whole country.

(g) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

In addition to Motor Ambulances in use at the Isolation Hospital for removal of infectious cases, there are also the Corporation Ambulances provided in co-operation with the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The chief officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. S. B. Manning) reports that a new Vauxhall Motor Ambulance has been placed in use during 1937, making a total of three ambulances now in service.

(h) **CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.**

These are the same as in the previous year.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the Borough is obtained from three sources, and is moderately hard.

(I) *The Borough's own supply from a well in Watford Fields.*

Samples are analysed by Messrs. Beale and Suckling of the Counties Public Health Laboratories once a fortnight. This supply is sterilised by the chloramine process.

The following very satisfactory report is that of a sample of water received by the analysts in April, 1938.

Appearance	...	...	...	Clear and bright.
Colour	...	...	...	Normal.
Odour	...	...	...	Nil.
Reaction pH	...	...	...	Neutral 7·8
Free Carbonic Acid	...	...	...	0·0
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.				440
Total Solids, 180° C.	...	...	...	29·0
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	2·9
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	0·84
Nitrites	...	...	...	Absent.
Hardness :—				
Permanent...	...	...	...	9·0
Temporary	...	...	...	8·0
Total	...	...	...	17·0
Metals	...	...	...	Absent.
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0·0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0·0000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 37° C.	...	...	...	0·005

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

No. of bacteria per c.c. :—

On Agar in 3 days at 20° C.	2
On Agar in 24 hrs. at 37° C.	0
On Agar in 2 days at 37° C.	2
The Bacillus Coli	...
Bacillus Welchii (B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)	...
	Absent in 100 c.c.
	Absent in 100 c.c.

Report.—This sample is clear and bright and of normal colour. The water is neutral in reaction, moderately hard in character, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, no metals, and is of a high degree of organic and bacterial purity.

It is, therefore, considered a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of public supply.

(II) *A supply from the Colne Valley Water Co.* which is distributed to the Oxhey District. This supply is sterilised by chlorination, followed by dechlorination with sulphur dioxide before distribution in the mains.

(III) *A supply from the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Water Co.* to parts of Leavesden. During 1938 it is expected that this supply will be replaced by one from a new well of the Borough at Grove Mill.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

I am indebted to Mr. S. Jump, Senior Sanitary Inspector, for the following table which is a copy of particulars which have to be supplied to the Ministry of Health each year, showing full details of cost, etc., of this service. The particulars, however, relate to the twelve months ending 31st March, 1937.

Item. (1)	Particulars. (2)	I.—Collection, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded		II.—Disposal, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded		TOTAL, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded	
		Included (3)	Excluded (4)	Included (5)	Excluded (6)	Included (7)	Excluded (8)
A	REVENUE A/c						
B	Gross Expenditure	£ 8,196	£ 7,546	£ 4,825	£ 4,825	£ 13,021	£ 12,371
	Gross Income ...	401	401	1,888	1,888	2,289	2,289
C	Net Cost ...	7,795	7,145	2,937	2,937	10,732	10,082
D	UNIT COSTS	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	Gross expenditure, per ton ...	10 2·4	9 4·6	6 0·0	6 0·0	16 2·4	15 4·6
E	Gross income, per ton ...	6·0	6·0	2 4·2	2 4·2	2 10·2	2 10·2
F	Net cost, per ton	9 8·4	8 10 6	3 7·8	3 7·8	13 4·2	12 6·4
G	Net cost, per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected ...	£ s. d. 405 19 10	£ s. d. 372 2 9	£ s. d. 152 19 4	£ s. d. 152 19 4	£ s. d. 558 19 2	£ s. d. 525 2 1
H	Net cost, per 1,000 population ...	£ s. d. 121 11 9	£ s. d. 111 8 11	£ s. d. 45 16 3	£ s. d. 45 16 3	£ s. d. 167 8 0	£ s. d. 157 5 2
J	RATE POUNDAGE						
	Net cost; equivalent rate in the £	3·441	3·158	1·298	1·298	4·739	4·456
K	Percentage of J to total rates in the £ ...	2·688%	2·467%	1·014%	1·014%	3·702%	3·481%

1.	Total refuse collected (in tons) ...	16,082	5.	Number of Houses and premises	19,200
2.	Population, Midsummer, 1936 ...	64,110	6.	Rateable Value ...	£558,249
3.	Area (Statute acres) ...	5,275	7.	Product of a penny rate ...	£2262·415
4.	Weight (in cwt.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	13·7	8.	Total rates in the £ ...	10s. 8d.

9.	Method of collection :—	Number of vehicles	Percentage of refuse collected
	Horse Vehicles ...	—	—
	Mechanical vehicles ...	10	100%
	Container system (combination of mechanical and horse vehicles)	—	—

METHOD OF DISPOSAL :—

Burnt in Meldrum's Destructor.

Average length of haul to disposal ... 2 miles.

Nine S. & D. freighters and one Scammell are used for the collection of house refuse.

One of the freighters, which is mounted on pneumatic tyres, is used for the collection of fish offal and slaughterhouse offal, and on this work is employed approximately half a day, the rest of the time on house refuse collection. Fish and slaughterhouse offal is collected in a very satisfactory and much more economical manner than was previously the case with horse-drawn vehicles.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A Water Carriage System for sewage is in general use in Watford with the exception of certain areas which are still not connected up with the sewer. The following private streets in Garston come in this category :—First Avenue, Second Avenue, Sheepcot Drive. In the following districts connections with the sewer have now been made : Garston Lane, St. Albans Road, Horseshoe Lane, and Sheepcot Lane, and within a short period it is expected that sewerage will be available for the remaining streets in Garston with the exception of Sheepcot Drive.

In addition there is undoubtedly great need for a main sewer to drain the village of Leavesden. Until this is constructed, the insanitary condition of certain areas cannot be dealt with satisfactorily. With regard to the Nascot Wood Area, main drainage would be an advantage to replace the present system of cesspool drainage.

REPORT OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Visits to Courts and Alleys...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ Infected Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	138
„ Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	1,604
Houses Inspected ...	...	...	...	...	...	362
„ Inspected (Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	71
„ re-Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	90
„ Inspected Rents Act	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ re-Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	—
Special visits to Houses, Insanitary Areas	...	...	...	...	...	233
„ Enquiries <i>re</i> Housing	...	...	...	...	...	30
Workshops Inspected	}	...	...	...	...	325
Bakehouses „						
Factories „						
Inhabited Vans Inspected ...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Urinals Inspected ...	...	...	...	...	...	67

Manure Pits Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,072
Visits to Schools <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Nuisances Investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,066
Interviews with Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	460
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,347
House Drains Smoke Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
„ Water Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ Chemically Tested and Examined	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Scavenging Superintended	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inspections <i>re</i> Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
„ <i>re</i> Sanitary Condition of Theatres, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	331
Legal Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
School Notices Served after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Number of Letters Sent	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,652
Number of Complaints Received	...	...	...	...	...	...	385
Number of Licences granted under Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
„ „ „ „ Carbide Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Cowsheds Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Milkshops and Dairies Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	844
Slaughter House Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,861
Visits to Market	...	...	...	...	...	...	335
„ <i>re</i> Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ to Food Preparing Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	358
„ to Fish Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,488
„ to Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	981
„ <i>re</i> Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,745
„ <i>re</i> Rats and Mice Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	335
„ <i>re</i> Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,438
„ <i>re</i> Smoke Nuisances (observations, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
„ <i>re</i> Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
„ to Watercress Beds	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
„ <i>re</i> Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
„ <i>re</i> Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
„ <i>re</i> Defective Fresh Air Inlets	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ <i>re</i> Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
„ <i>re</i> Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Samples of Milk Taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
„ „ Water Taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Visits to Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	57

NUISANCES ABATED.

Choked Drains	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	48
„ W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
„ Urinals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
„ Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	53
„ Inspection Chambers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
„ „ „ Covers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ Interceptors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ Fences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
„ W.C. Flushing Fittings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
„ Soil Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Vent Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
„ Sinks and Sink Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
„ Eaves, Guttering and Rain Water Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
„ Fresh Air Inlets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
„ Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
„ Doors and Door Frames	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
„ Cellar Flaps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Staircases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Ceilings, Plastering, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	174
„ Coppers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
„ Chimneys and Flues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ Window Frames and Sash Cords	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
„ Fireplaces and Cooking Ranges	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
„ Brickwork	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
„ Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rooms Renovated, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	350
Yard Paving Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Filthy Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness Remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	327
Dirty Closets and Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
General Repairs, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	495
Poultry and Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dustbins Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Smoke Nuisances Remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

DISINFECTION, ETC.

Rooms after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	221
„ „ Consumption	...	...	...	...	...	55
„ „ Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ for Vermin	...	...	...	...	...	51
School Rooms after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	33
Hospital Wards, etc., Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	6

BEDDING, ETC., DISINFECTED.

Mattresses	...	...	23	Blankets	...	...	407
Beds	...	...	124	Sheets	...	...	288
Pillows	...	...	205	Sundries	...	...	391
Bolsters	...	...	187				

BEDDING, ETC., DESTROYED.

By request of owners.

Beds	...	...	18	Counterpanes	...	...	4
Sundries	...	...	246	Mattresses	...	...	16
Sheets	...	...	15	Pillows	...	...	22
Blankets	...	...	12	Bolsters	...	...	9

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

A bye-law has been adopted in Watford but it has not been necessary to take legal proceedings in any case during the past year.

The bye-law prescribes that the emission of black smoke for a period of two minutes in the aggregate within any continuous period of thirty minutes, from any building other than a private dwelling house, shall until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be a nuisance.

Health Education.

Health education of the general public has been continued on much the same lines as in previous years. The monthly journal *Better Health* has a local circulation of 2,000 copies per month, whilst the posters supplied for certain posting stations in the town have kept up some interest in health matters. In addition a lecturer of the British Cancer Campaign gave a lecture on the prevention of cancer which was greatly appreciated.

INSPECTION UNDER SHOPS ACT, 1912-1936.

Mr. A. Corke has carried out this work and is responsible for the following classification:—

CLASSIFICATION OF SHOPS.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SHOPS	...	...	...	...	...	1,175
SHOPS EMPLOYING ASSISTANTS	...	...	...	...	...	661
SHOPS EMPLOYING YOUNG ASSISTANTS	...	...	...	...	...	340
SHOPS OPEN AFTER 8 p.m.	...	...	...	...	...	199
SHOPS OPEN ON HALF HOLIDAY	...	...	...	...	...	153
SHOPS OPEN ON SUNDAY	...	...	...	...	...	193

TRADES.	No.	TRADES.	No.
		Brought Forward	1,064
Theatres	8	Wardrobe Dealers	12
Licensed Premises	83	Corn Merchants	7
Grocery and Provisions	89	Libraries	4
Drapery, etc.	68	Cooked Foods	9
Butchers	60	Wallpaper Merchants	4
Hairdressers	88	Toy Dealers	3
Tobacconists	14	Florists	10
Tob. and Confectioners	87	Photographers	5
Tob., Confec., and Café	48	China and Glassware	4
Tob. Confec., and News.	48	Saddlers and Sports	5
Tob., Confec., and General	70	Pawnbrokers	3
Gent's Outfitters	43	Opticians	5
Greengrocers	50	Petrol Sales	5
Bakers and Confectioners	35	Baby Carriage Specialists	4
Chemists	27	Woodwork Specialists	2
Piano and Music	6	Sewing Machines	3
Boot and Shoe Retailers	27	Builders' Merchants	2
Furniture Stores	25	Canine Specialist	1
Cycle Dealers	18	Furrier	1
Ironmongers and Hardware	20	Umbrella Specialist	1
Fishmongers	25	Tea and Coffee Specialists	2
Leather and Grindery	20	Foot Specialist	1
Dairies	13	Chain Stores	3
Jewellers	13	Ice Cream Merchants	2
Art Wool Stores	13	Cooker Specialists	1
Wireless and Electric Stores	29	Milk Bar	1
Naturalist and Nurserymen	3	Typewriter Service	2
General Providers	3	Restaurants	5
Valet Service	15	Tool Specialists	2
Stationers	16	Picture Frame Makers	2
Carried Forward	1,064	Total	1,175

SHOPS ACT, 1924.

LIST OF VISITS PAID AND ACTION TAKEN IN 1937.

Routine visits, Inspection of Records, etc.	2,429
Visits paid to shops on Wednesday, Early Closing Day ...	886
Evening visits to shops and observation on shops after Legal Closing Hours, allowed to be open for Exempted Goods	1,430
Reports submitted to Town Clerk of Infringements of Shops Act for consideration	8
Summons taken out ...	5
Fines imposed in Cases ...	4
Warnings sent to remainder	3
Warnings issued <i>re</i> infringements of Shops Act	54
New Shops added to records	15
Visits paid to Shops (Sunday Restriction Act)	60

MEASURES TAKEN TO SECURE HEALTH AND COMFORT OF SHOP WORKERS.

Heating installed in shops	9
Lavatory accommodation now provided in shops	4
Notices of exemption Lavatory accommodation issued to shops	2

Shops (Sunday Trade Restriction) Act, 1936, came into force May 1st.

Half Holiday Order No. 1.

Result of Voting

Voting papers distributed ...	671
Shops in favour	654
Shops against	6
Shops refusing to vote	9
Papers not returned	2

Watford (Fish Friers, etc.). Half Holiday order.

Petition submitted for Council's consideration.

Sub-Committee visited two shops *re* unsatisfactory condition. Action deferred.

Hardware Van operating on Early Closing Day. Matter taken up. Van now withdrawn.

IV.—HOUSING.

(a) UNHEALTHY AREAS.

The following list of insanitary houses demolished since 1924 has not been added to during 1937, but several demolition orders have been made and some serious cases of overcrowding have been dealt with.

LIST OF HOUSES DEMOLISHED 1924-1928.

(First stage of slum demolition with re-housing)

	Houses
Ballard's Buildings and New Street	48
Butcher's Yard and Meeting Alley	41
Beechen Grove, Nos. 19 and 21	2
Loates Lane	3
Lamb Yard	6
Red Lion Yard	10
Watford Heath	3
Lower High Street	6
Tipple's Yard	2
Cassio Hamlet	7
Woodman's Yard	4
Watford Fields	8
Wheatsheaf Cottages	2
Chalk Hill	1
Three Crowns Passage	3
Prospect Place	2
Rickmansworth Road	2
Hempstead Road	2
	<hr/>
	152
	<hr/>

LATER STAGES OF DEMOLITION.

(1928 to 1936 as below).

	Houses
1, 2, 3, New Road ...	3
10 to 22 Chapman's Yard } 4 to 21 New Road }	29
3 to 13 Chater's Yard } 7 to 10 Albert Street }	15
16 to 19 Red Lion Yard ...	4
34 to 37 Red Lion Yard ...	4
2 to 8 Beechen Grove } 13 Loates Lane ... }	5
1 to 7 Grove Circus } 15 and 17 Beechen Grove }	9
Wells' Yard ...	23
Upper Paddock Road } Van Yean Cottages }	8
43 to 47 Riverside Road } 67 to 81 Riverside Road }	11
Watford Heath ...	3
239 High Street ...	1
Home Farm Cottage ...	1
Timber Yard Cottage ...	1
14 Watford Fields ...	1
40-46 Aldenham Road ...	4
Wright's Buildings ...	5
24 and 25 Meeting Alley ...	2

Making a total of ... 281

at the end of 1937.

HOUSING MATTERS DEALT WITH IN 1937.

There has been considerable activity shown in dealing with the matter of overcrowding during 1937. Under Section 62 of the Housing Act, 1936, inspections to the number of 1,994 were made. This involved measuring up of rooms to ascertain the permitted number of persons allowed to occupy dwelling houses. Seven cases of overcrowding were discovered by this process, and all cases were remedied.

(b) **SCHEMES TO RELIEVE SHORTAGE.**

In order to relieve shortage, there are now 120 additional houses in course of erection. There is also a proposal before the Council for the erection of 44 houses at Riverside Road. The number of houses owned by the Corporation remains the same as in the previous year (see Section c). Mr. Pickering's waiting list of families requiring house accommodation still has 286 unsatisfied applicants. Of this number 170 are actually in possession of a house, but would prefer a council house if possible. These figures show a marked improvement on the position two or three years ago, when there were 600 applicants on the waiting list.

(c) **CORPORATION HOUSING SCHEMES COMPLETED.**

(At the end of the year 1937).

The list of houses given below includes not only those erected to relieve shortage, but also houses built for the re-housing of tenants from insanitary areas which have been demolished.

LIST OF HOUSES OWNED BY CORPORATION

ASSISTED SCHEMES. 1919 Act (Total 953).

Harebreaks (C. Brightman and Son)	828
Harebreaks (Garden Cities Co.)	47
Sydney Road	28
Rickmansworth Road	10
Rose Gardens	40

PRE-1919 SCHEME.

Willow Lane	22
--------------------	----

1923 ACT SCHEME.

Rookery Road	40
---------------------	----

1924 ACT SCHEME (Total 444).

Wiggenhall Hall Estate	122
Harebreaks (Gammons Farm Estate)	124
Eastbury Road (Thorpe Crescent)	80
Harebreaks (Leggatts Way and Elm Grove)	18
Leavesden Green Estate	100

1930 ACT SCHEME (Total 150).

Leavesden Green	130
Water Lane (4 cottages and 16 flats)	20

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEMES (Total 112).

Leggatts Way	16
Harebreaks	54
Blackwell Drive	24
Eastbury Road	18

Total ... 1,721

ADVANCES FOR HOUSE PURCHASE.

Much has been done by the Corporation in assisting private enterprise by means of loans. Mr. J. Ginger, the Borough Treasurer, reported to the Housing Committee on April 8th, 1937, that the position with regard to advances to the 1st April, 1937, for the purpose of acquiring houses, was as follows :—

	Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts 1899-1923		Housing Act 1925 Section 92		TOTAL.	
	No.	Amt. £	No.	Amt. £	No.	Amt. £
Amount Offered ...	1,470	843,020	159	121,000	1,629	964,020
Amount Advanced...	1,467	841,610	159	121,000	1,626	962,610
Amount Repaid ...	—	391,592	—	85,482	—	477,074
Amount Outstanding	—	£450,018	—	£35,518	—	£485,536

(d) HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	439
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	433
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	746
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	71
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	90
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	332

II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 327

III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 1
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners 1
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- 1.—Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners Nil
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

D.—Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

(e) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

An Annual Statement of particulars about this work is required by the Ministry of Health and the particulars are as follows :

1. Premises dealt with for bugs, Public Health Department	... ..	90
Premises dealt with for bugs, Corporation Housing Department	... ..	27
	Total	<hr/> 117 <hr/>

2. The methods employed were as follows :—

- (a) Removal of woodwork.
- (b) Burning by blowlamp to kill eggs.
- (c) Application of germicidal liquid by brush and spray.

3. The methods employed to ensure that the belongings of tenants were free from vermin before removal to Council houses were as follows :—

Belongings were examined and destroyed where necessary, new materials being provided in some cases.

4. The work of disinfection was carried out by private owners with assistance and supervision by the Public Health Department.

(f) OVERCROWDING.

This matter has already been referred to on page 28, the cases there mentioned being cases where owners wished to know the permitted number. In addition 12 cases of overcrowding in Council houses were reported by Mr. Pickering and it was found possible to deal with 6 of these by transfer to other Corporation houses.

V. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following tabulated statement (required by the Secretary of State) gives details of inspections, etc.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Inspections. (2)	Number of Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	152	50	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	165	25	—
Workplaces Other than 'Outworkers' premises	8	1	—
Total	325	76	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. In- spector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	70	70	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	1	1	—	—
Other Nuisances	4	4	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient	—	—	—	—
{ unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
{ not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	—	—	—	—
Total	76	76	—	—

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

VI. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK.

There is one cowshed in occupation in the Borough and in this shed there are 34 cows kept, the milk from which is used in the district. Besides this there are no less than 57 different milk supplies produced in other districts, which come into the Borough.

During the year 115 samples of milk have been taken and these have been examined by Drs. Beale and Suckling for tuberculosis, etc. The following table shows the result of these examinations :—

Number of Samples	...	...	115
Number found satisfactory	...	98,	or 85.21 per cent.
Number found with tubercle bacilli	3,	or 2.60	per cent.
Number found with blood or pus cells	14,	or 12.17	per cent.

In all cases where the samples were not satisfactory the Authority for the district in which the milk was produced was communicated with, and each case was dealt with by the Authority responsible.

In addition to these samples, in accordance with the Ministry's instructions, systematic samples have been taken of Tuberculin Tested milk.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.—Under this Order there are three licensed vendors of Tuberculin Tested milk, but there are no producers in the Borough of milk under special designations. There is one licensed apparatus in the Borough for the pasteurisation of milk, and this process is partially and unofficially carried out in connection with some of the milk sold from two other dairies.

There is evidence that the amount of milk sold under special designations is increasing and this is undoubtedly a satisfactory development.

(b) MEAT.

Watford is an important centre for the slaughter of animals, and the Kosher method is practised at one large slaughter house in the town. A full-time officer is engaged in food inspection, the greater part of his time being employed in connection with duties at the slaughter houses.

The following is a tabular statement of the number of slaughter houses in the town :—

		In 1920	In January, 1930	In December, 1937
Registered	...	6	...	6
Licensed	...	5	...	5
		—	—	—
Total	...	11	11	8
		—	—	—

(c) **WATERCRESS**

The county of Hertfordshire occupies an important position in the watercress industry, supplying as it does the markets of London, Birmingham, Manchester and other large towns. In the Borough of Watford the industry is carried on by two growers who are tenants of the Corporation. Watercress is a valuable food, rich in vitamins, but it is important from a health point of view that it should not be grown in contaminated water. Action has been taken to exclude all river water from the watercress beds in Watford, which will in future be fed by spring water only. One is pleased to report that the watercress growers themselves are taking action to improve the conditions under which watercress is cultivated. At certain watercress farms in this district each bed consists of a shallow concrete bath, on the floor of which there is a layer of sand and gravel in which the watercress is grown. The cress is washed by fresh running water brought from the chalk from a depth of from 80 to 120 feet. It is very desirable that all watercress farms should be conducted on these hygienic lines in order to protect a valuable food from possible contamination. The pioneers of this method of cultivation are to be congratulated on their enterprise.

1937.

FOOD INSPECTION.**Total number of Animals examined.**

Beasts.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.
5,737	8,273	12,503	2,594

Condemned and Destroyed.

5,225 st. English Beef.

225 st. Imported Beef.

5 st. English Mutton.

64 st. Pork.

17 st. Frozen Mutton.

7 st. Veal.

167 Beasts and all Organs (Weight, 11,323 st.)

31 Calves and all Organs.

419 Beasts' Lungs.

313 „ Livers.

615 „ Heads.

615 „ Tongues.

187 „ Other Organs.

517 Cows' Udders.

3 Sheep and all Organs (Weight 20 st.)

132 Sheep's Plucks.

24 „ Kidneys (frozen).

12 „ Heads.

33 Pigs and all Organs (Weight 437 st.)

116 „ Heads.

151 „ Plucks.

9 st. Haddocks.

3 st. Herrings.

- 5 st. Soles.
- 16 st. Cod.
- 4 st. Skate.
- 13 st. Catfish.
- 12 st. Dabs.
- 5 st. Dogfish.
- 6 st. Plaice.
- 4 Boxes Kippers.
- 3 Boxes Dried Haddocks.
- 7 st. Fish Fillets.
- 116 Tins Corned Beef.
- 27 Tins various Fruits.
- 16 Rabbits
- 38 Tins frozen Lambs' Livers.
- 13 Tins Ox Tongues.
- 10 Tins Asparagus.
- 30 Tins Ham.
- 6 Tins Salmon.
- 144 Tins Milk.
- 28 Tins Pilchards.
- 37 Tins Tomatoes
- 17 lbs. Bacon
- 14 Tins Herrings
- 10 Tins Chicken and Ham Roll
- 5 Tins Pork and Beans
- 1 Tin Lobster
- 3 Tins Veal
- 2 Tins Soup

TABLE SHOWING EXTENT OF TUBERCULOUS DISEASES IN ANIMALS EXAMINED,
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

Kind of Animal.	Number Examined.	Of which were Tuberculous.	Heads	Thorax.			Abdomen.							Udders	Entire Carcases Condemned owing to Tuberculosis.	
				Lungs	Hearts and Pericardii	Serous Membranes	Livers	Stomachs	Spleens	Kidneys	Intestines	Uteri	Serous Membranes			Mesenteries
Beasts	5,737	{ 24 Bulls 527 Cows 31 Heifers 39 Bullocks 621	599	385	175	286	215	161	159	161	161	103	161	161	135	7 Bulls 146 Cows 7 Heifers 1 Bullock — 161 =
Sheep	8,273	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Pigs	12,503	158	116	151	11	23	12	12	12	12	12	1	12	12	1	12 Pigs
Calves	2,594	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	2	2	—	2 Calfs
Totals	29,107	781	717	538	188	311	229	175	173	174	175	104	175	175	136	175

VII. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.—Fortunately during 1937 there was a comparatively slight incidence of scarlet fever, 96 cases as compared with 73 in 1936. In 1934 the outbreak of scarlet fever was the greatest since 1907 when 254 cases occurred. Most of the cases of 1937 were of a mild type and no death occurred. The table on the next page shows that an increased incidence of scarlet fever tends to recur about every fourth year. At the present time the type of scarlet fever generally tends to become milder. Even with the milder type of illness now prevalent, scarlet fever is still a dreaded disease, and this dread is justifiable on account of the complications which occur. Hospital isolation of cases is still a necessity, as the milder cases are often very infectious, and are not necessarily free from complications.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Under this title are included the two diseases, typhoid and paratyphoid. Whilst typhoid fever is the more severe of the two in the matter of symptoms and complications, paratyphoid is a greater risk to the community in the matter of infection. This arises from the fact that paratyphoid, being a much milder illness than typhoid, is more liable to be overlooked and, as in the case of other infectious diseases, it is often the “missed” case which causes spread of the disease. Fortunately Watford is not a town which has been liable to epidemics of typhoid or paratyphoid fever. On page 44 there is a table showing the number of cases which have occurred in the Borough since the year 1900. It appears that in 1900, twenty cases of typhoid occurred and 13 in the following year. The Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health for those years do not state the cause of these cases, some of which are described as “doubtful” and “probably contracted away from home.” In 1921 there was a small outbreak of typhoid fever, the infection of which was definitely traced to a certain milk supply. So far as our records show there has never been a typhoid fever epidemic in Watford which was due to a contaminated water supply. This fact, however, will not prevent the taking of precautions which are necessary for the prevention of such an event in the future. Full particulars about the water supply of the Borough will be found on page 18. During the year 1937 only one case of paratyphoid fever occurred, and no case of typhoid.

PREVALENCE OF SCARLET FEVER IN WATFORD

since 1892.

Year	Total number Scarlet Fever cases notified	Attack rate per 1,000	Number cases sent to Hospital	Number of deaths
1892	52	2.5	No Record	—
1893	364	18.0	268	7
1894	60	2.9	No Record	1
1895	66	3.0	64	3
1896	44	1.5	38	—
1897	46	1.8	41	—
1898	33	1.3	31	2
1899	190	7.0	No Record	4
1900	150	5.4	136	—
1901	130	3.9	119	3
1902	264	8.8	231	1
1903	155	5.0	130	2
1904	220	7.0	198	4
1905	117	3.4	98	—
1906	197	5.6	175	7
1907	254	7.0	225	5
1908	92	2.5	82	2
1909	121	2.8	106	—
1910	120	3.0	110	2
1911	102	2.4	93	1
1912	80	1.9	61	2
1913	58	1.4	58	—
1914	116	2.8	92	1
1915	100	2.3	94	2
1916	74	1.7	70	No Record
1917	26	0.6	26	—
1918	25	0.6	23	—
1919	164	4.0	138	—
1920	213	4.7	173	1
1921	181	4.0	149	—
1922	64	1.4	50	—
1923	35	0.7	29	1
1924	24	0.5	20	—
1925	149	3.0	131	None
1926	183	3.6	147	1
1927	91	1.7	79	2
1928	183	3.3	152	1
1929	190	3.4	151	1
1930	118	2.1	103	1
1931	64	1.1	52	None
1932	45	0.7	41	None
1933	89	1.5	83	2
1934	240	3.9	225	1
1935	91	1.4	84	None
1936	73	1.1	67	None
1937	96	1.4	91	None

DIPHTHERIA.—Only 19 cases occurred, with 2 deaths. This small number of cases is very satisfactory. A table showing the prevalence of diphtheria in Watford since 1900 is given on the next page.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC.—This was started in 1935. The following figures show the work which has been done during the last three years.

					1935	1936	1937
Total Attendances	...	...	...	...	539	705	436
Injections	...	...	...	...	405	149	285
Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	50	27	15
Positive Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	30	12	13
Negative Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	15	12	2
Post-Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	72	71	65
Positive Post-Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	1	1	3
Negative Post-Schick Tests	...	...	...	...	71	70	62

The persons immunised were chiefly children under the age of 5 years, as it was thought best to concentrate mainly on this age period. In addition certain adults received treatment, chiefly the staff of the Isolation Hospital who usually need protection owing to the fact that they are exposed to the risk of infection, and others who applied for immunisation. A system of three injections was used, T.A.M. in the case of children under 5 years and T.A.F. in the case of adults. Preliminary Schick and Post-Schick tests were also used. Dr. Margaret Ward is the Medical Officer in charge of this clinic.

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE injections were also given in 3 cases.

ERYSIPELAS.—Sixteen cases were notified as compared with 16 in the previous year and 18 in 1935.

PUERPERAL SEPSIS.—Seven cases were notified, two as puerperal fever and five as puerperal pyrexia. No death from puerperal sepsis occurred.

CHICKEN POX AND MEASLES are not notifiable diseases in this Borough.

PNEUMONIA (which includes primary pneumonia and influenzal pneumonia).—Thirty-two cases were notified. This notification is of some value at times when influenza is prevalent, in order to show the extent of the epidemic, and also the number of serious cases.

PREVALENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN WATFORD

since 1900

Year.	Total Number Diphtheria Cases Notified.	Attack Rate per 1,000.	Number cases sent to Hospital.	Number of Deaths.
1900	106	3.4	85	9
1901	80	2.7	66	6
1902	95	3.1	71	8
1903	114	3.6	102	10
1904	38	1.1	24	1
1905	85	2.4	66	4
1906	129	3.6	100	3
1907	218	5.7	164	15
1908	125	3.2	84	8
1909	82	2.0	59	3
1910	33	0.8	22	1
1911	61	1.5	46	3
1912	30	0.7	20	3
1913	58	1.3	43	3
1914	89	2.0	68	4
1915	75	1.8	62	7
1916	77	1.9	67	6
1917	88	2.2	72	3
1918	58	1.3	44	5
1919	64	1.4	48	1
1920	45	0.9	34	1
1921	36	0.8	34	1
1922	61	1.3	45	3
1923	14	0.3	9	1
1924	27	0.6	25	5
1925	30	0.6	30	4
1926	16	0.3	14	1
1927	25	0.5	22	2
1928	43	0.8	39	2
1929	164	3.0	160	7
1930	178	3.2	170	11
1931	94	1.7	90	6
1932	61	1.1	60	2
1933	20	0.3	19	—
1934	28	0.5	25	2
1935	15	0.2	15	1
1936	15	0.2	15	None
1937	19	0.2	19	2

The *attack rate* recorded for 1936 (0.2 per 1,000) is the lowest which has ever occurred in the Borough of Watford, being the same as in the previous year.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.—The usual seasonal occurrence of these diseases resulted in three deaths from whooping cough, and none from measles.

INFLUENZA.—There was a serious outbreak of influenza which resulted in 26 deaths, as compared with 6 deaths in the previous year.

VENEREAL DISEASES are dealt with by the County Council. No treatment centres have been established in the County owing to facilities for treatment which are easily available in London. Cases of this disease occasionally present themselves at the Public Health Offices, and are directed to obtain treatment at one of the London hospitals. In certain necessitous cases, who were unable to afford the fares to London, the County Council has, from time to time, defrayed this expense in order to assist the obtaining of treatment.

PREVALENCE OF ENTERIC FEVER IN WATFORD
since 1900

Year	Para-Typhoid	Typhoid	Total Enteric Cases	Deaths
1900	—	20	20	3
1901	—	13	13	1
1902	—	—	5	2
1903	—	—	4	1
1904	—	—	9	2
1905	—	—	8	1
1906	—	—	7	1
1907	—	—	7	—
1908	—	—	4	2
1909	—	—	5	1
1910	—	—	4	1
1911	—	—	7	1
1912	—	—	4	—
1913	—	—	—	—
1914	—	—	1	—
1915	—	—	3	—
1916	—	No record	—	—
1917	—	—	2	—
1918	—	—	1	—
1919	—	—	3	—
1920	—	—	1	—
1921	—	12	12	1
1922	—	—	6	—
1923	—	—	2	—
1924	—	—	8	3
1925	1	—	1	—
1926	2	—	2	—
1927	2	—	2	—
1928	8	1	9	—
1929	5	1	6	—
1930	—	5	5	—
1931	—	2	2	—
1932	1	4	5	3
1933	—	1	1	—
1934	—	—	1	—
1935	—	—	3	1
1936	—	5	5	—
1937	1	—	1	—

With regard to the above list of cases, in only two instances were there definite outbreaks of the disease, one in 1900—01 and another in 1921. The other figures given were usually on account of scattered or sporadic cases not connected with each other. On investigation it is commonly found that the illness has been contracted on a holiday or during a visit to some place away from the Watford district. For further particulars see page 39. It should be noted that comparatively few cases of enteric fever have occurred during the last five years, and during the last year only one case.

TABLE D.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1937—BOROUGH OF WATFORD

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Cases notified in whole District												Total cases notified in each locality							Total cases removed to Hospital	No. of Deaths		
	At ages												Harebreaks	Bradshaw	St. Andrews	Cassiobury	Harwoods	Kings	Queens			Oxhey	
	At all ages	under 1	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	35 years	45 years											65 years and up
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	19	—	—	—	1	7	4	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	2	3	1	—	19	2	
Erysipelas	16	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	3	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	12	—	
Scarlet Fever	96	—	4	10	6	26	36	7	3	3	1	—	—	—	6	—	6	3	11	91	—	—	
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cerebro spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	
Poliomyelitis	7	1	2	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	2	3	—	1	2	1	7	4	4	—	—	—	4	11	1	2	1	1	—	—	
Pneumonia	31	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	178	4	8	16	7	35	43	12	20	12	13	6	20	21	11	28	10	12	14	131	2	—	

TABLE E shows that one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified.

TABLE E.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

	Cases			Vision Unim- paired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home	At Hos- pital				
	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	One	Nil				

TABLE F shows the number of cases of tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths from this disease.

TABLE F.—TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
10	...	...	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	4	4	1	—	3	1	1	—
25	...	...	8	4	1	—	2	3	—	—
35	...	...	14	3	—	1	3	3	—	—
45	...	...	4	1	—	1	6	—	—	—
55	...	...	6	2	—	—	8	3	—	—
65 and upwards			3	—	—	1	5	2	—	—
TOTALS	...		43	15	4	7	27	13	2	—

Of the 41 cases who died from tuberculosis, 23 were notified and 18 un-notified

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62. It was not found necessary to take action under the powers given by either of these. There are only three cowsheds in the Borough and none of these employ workers suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. With regard to compulsory removal to hospital of persons in an infectious state suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, up to the present time no cases have arisen where removal was so urgent as to justify the exercise of compulsion.

VISITS TO TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS.—These are paid by the Health Visitors of the Borough. The object of the visit is chiefly to ensure that precautions against infections are taken, to advise about general care of the health, and to ascertain whether home and sanitary conditions are satisfactory. During the year 294 visits of this nature were paid. There are several shelters in use by patients in the Borough.

VIII. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SCHEME.

The following is a list of activities carried out under the scheme in the shape of clinics and centres.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The Hut, 1 St. Albans Road—Tuesdays.

Wiggenhall House—Fridays.

Wesleyan Schoolroom, Harebreaks—Mondays.

Scouts' Hall, Leggatts Way—Tuesdays.

The following are also held at 1 St. Albans Road :

Pre-School (Toddlers') Clinic—Wednesdays.

Ante-Natal and Mothercraft Centre—Thursdays.

Post-Natal Centre—2nd and 4th Mondays.

Dental Clinic—1st and 3rd Mondays.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is held every Wednesday Morning in The Hut, 1 St. Albans Road.

(a) STATISTICS.

The following three tables give statistics of the work, including that of previous years for the sake of comparison:—

I. Visits by Health Visitors.

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
First visits	683	750	723	785	689	826	942	987	991
Re-visits	2855	3094	3155	3088	3036	3278	2328	4096	2889
Visits 1-5 years	1075	2145	2062	1283	1555	2020	2066	2957	5127
Ante-natal	120	319	285	218	223	240	195	243	251
Tuberculosis, Dental visits, etc.	455	538	545	382	354	417	503	589	520
Total visits paid	5088	6846	6770	5756	5857	6781	6034	8872	9778

II. Attendances at the Centres.

Centre.	Weighings.	Consulta- tions.	Number of Infants on Books.	New Cases Examined.
Leggatts Way ...	1,886	577	150	98
The Hut ...	3,740	840	231	223
Wiggenhall House ...	3,199	861	185	161
North Watford...	3,983	981	332	206
Totals...	12,808	3,259	898*	678

* The above figure of 898 infants on the books refers to children under the age of 18 months. In addition there are 466 other children (the so-called 'toddlers') attending the centres, making a total of 1,363 children under five years on the books.

III. Other Statistics.

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
<hr/>									
<i>Ante-natal clinic:—</i>									
Mothers attending	282	257	264	231	200	220	298	312	358
Total attendances	832	809	848	768	568	767	896	866	861
<i>Dental Clinic:—</i>									
Ante-natal cases	29	43	34	31	36	34	79	60	47
Nursing mothers	57	56	80	76	55	50	52	58	81
Children ...	69	68	76	82	115	135	119	126	127
<i>Orthopædic Centre:—</i>									
Cases referred for treatment...	45	34	63	63	73	100	97	99	95
<i>Free Milk:—</i>									
Number of Cases	82	87	109	114	112	107	107	161	199
<i>Post Natal Clinic:—</i>									
Mothers Attending ...	..	...	...	...	...	48	38	41	
Number of Attendances	...	..	...	...	...	58	59	71	

ATTENDANCES OF INFANTS FROM OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH.—261 children were brought to the various centres from places outside the Borough, such as Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, King's Langley, Abbot's Langley, Bushey, Aldenham, Bricket Wood, Elstree, etc. Such cases are at liberty to attend if the parents wish it, and a small grant is available from the County Council funds in respect of such attendances. There were 2,115 attendances on the part of the 261 cases mentioned. The above figures include 27 children attending the Dental Clinic, 61 at the Toddlers' Clinic, and 49 Ante-Natal cases.

(b) RED CROSS ORTHOPÆDIC CENTRE.

Mr. S. L. Higgs, F.R.C.S., attends as consultant at the Centre which is now held in Queen's Road. A large number of cases are referred each year from the Infant Welfare Centre. A block grant of £40 per annum is given by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee towards the cost of treatment, and further grants for splints. In addition, cases referred for treatment at the Orthopædic Hospital are also assisted. Particulars of the number of cases referred to the orthopædic centre since its opening will be found in the table of statistics at the beginning of this section of the report. The following is a list of 95 cases referred this year. In some cases splints, and in others alterations to shoes, or valgus insoles were ordered.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE CASES FOR 1937

WATFORD.

The following figures have been supplied by Miss M. Kirby

Knock Knees	...	...	...	...	26
Bow Legs	...	...	...	..	26
Congenital Club Feet	...	...	...		9
Flat Foot	...	...	...	...	17
Congenital Wry Neck	..	...	...		2
Spastic Paralysis	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Dislocation of Hip				...	1
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	13
					—
					95
					==

(c) **PRE-SCHOOL CLINIC.**

This is sometimes known as the Toddlers' Clinic, but actually it deals with children between the ages of eighteen months and five years. The Medical Officer, Dr. Margaret Ward, reports as follows :

During the year 50 sessions were held; 371 new cases were examined and 312 re-examined. The total attendance was 1,233.

Most of the children were passed on from the Infant Welfare Centres, but we were glad to have a large number of newcomers also.

17.5 per cent. of the children examined were found to be vaccinated. A smaller number of children came with carious teeth. Whether this improvement will be maintained remains to be seen.

No cases of organic heart disease attended. There were a fair number with anæmia, some being of quite a mild character.

Two cases of organic nervous disease, namely Anterior Poliomyelitis were found, one being in the initial stage, and the other already under treatment. There was one mentally defective child who also required orthopædic treatment. A few cases were stated to be really difficult to manage, but most of them were only slightly troublesome.

A large number were reported to have poor appetites, but fewer to have constipation. In all cases advice was given as to diet and training, each child being considered according to its particular

requirements. Many mothers, chiefly those with several children, still follow the old fashioned practice of giving a weekly dose of aperient all round the family. As usual several cases of enuresis cropped up. Advice as to management was given, but these cases tend to be of long duration. A large number of cases from this clinic were referred to the Orthopædic Clinic, but some failed to attend. Genu Valgum was as usual much to the fore. This is decidedly not on the decrease and often passes for a long time unnoticed by parents. This unsightly and somewhat disabling condition prevents a child from running properly and is often associated with flat foot. In the matter of prevention of this trouble, the question of the right kind of footwear is a difficult one, as strong, suitable shoes tend to be far too expensive for many mothers, when children wear them out so quickly, the result being that inferior, soft little shoes and sandals are often worn.

The Oxhey Nursery School has worked in co-operation with the Pre-School Clinic, and it is very satisfactory to observe the good results obtained at the school.

The table of cases and the observations in this report refer only to new cases for the year. There were, in addition, 312 re-examinations, and among these were many interesting cases, who were kept under observation or referred for treatment elsewhere.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF TODDLERS, 1937.

Disease, Defect or condition						Total
Nutrition:						
(a) Good	...	...	...	...	...	235
(b) Fair	...	...	...	...	...	108
(c) Poor	...	...	...	...	...	28
Muscular Tone:						
(a) Good	...	...	...	...	...	266
(b) Fair	...	...	...	...	...	79
(c) Poor	...	...	...	...	...	26
Clothing and Footgear:						
(a) Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	364
(b) Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cleanliness:						
(a) Good	...	...	...	...	...	354
(b) Fair	...	...	...	...	...	13
(c) Dirty	...	...	...	...	...	4

Disease, Defect or condition						Total
Skin:						
Minor Skin conditions	...	...	...	...	...	22
Eczema	...	...	...	...	...	8
Naevi ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	2
Eye:						
Squint	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ear:						
Otorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nose and Throat:						
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	...	...	...	65
Enlarged Glands	...	...	...	...	...	64
Teeth:						
Caries...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Late Dentition	...	...	...	...	...	49
Heart and Circulation:						
(a) Functional Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	12
(b) Organic Heart Disease...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Anaemia	...	...	...	...	...	13
Lungs:						
Bronchial Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	3
Asthma	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nervous System:						
Minor Retardation	...	...	...	...	...	21
Behaviour Symptoms	...	...	...	...	...	69
Mental Deficiency	...	...	...	...	...	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	1

Disease, Defect or condition						Total
Alimentary System:						
Poor Appetite	...	...	...	...	...	67
Constipation ...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Threadworms	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rectal Prolapse	...	...	...	...	...	1
Genito-Urinary System:						
Enuresis	...	...	...	...	...	14
Rickets:						
Active	...	...	...	...	...	4
Healed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Deformities:						
Genu Valgum	...	...	...	...	...	41
Genu Varum...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Minor Defects	...	...	...	...	...	37
Vaccinated Children	...	...	...	...	...	65
Children who had not attended a clinic before	...	...	...	...	...	93
New Cases	...	...	...	...	...	371
Re-examinations	...	...	...	...	...	312
Total Examinations...	...	...	...	...	...	683
Total Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	1,233

REPORT ON ANTE-NATAL AND POST NATAL CLINICS.

By DR. WINIFRED PIGGOTT.

The numbers attending the Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics at Watford this year are practically the same as last year. The total number of women who have come in 1937 is 932 as compared to 925 last year giving an average attendance of 12.6 as against 12.5 last year. 861 were ante-natal cases and 71 post-natal cases. 27 patients were referred for treatment to their own doctors and 69 were recommended for dental treatment. Two thirds of these actually attended the dental clinic, the rest refused treatment chiefly because they feared untoward results. Their fears are, however, very ill-founded.

12 Post-Natal cases were sent to the Gynæcological Clinic at the Peace Memorial Hospital. Three Ante-Natal cases were sent up for X-rays. The midwives have done excellent work and attended regularly with their cases week after week, they are keen on the ante-natal work and keep a sharp eye on the mothers, rounding up those who have neglected to turn up for their appointments. We owe much of the success of the clinics to their hard work.

WINIFRED PIGGOTT, M.B., B.S.

(f) **DENTAL REPORT, 1936.**
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

I am indebted to Dr. S. Fisk for the following report :—

The following table shows the number of cases treated :—

Nursing Mothers ...	...	...	...	...	81
Ante-Natal Mothers ...	...	...	...	...	47
Children under 5 years of age ...	...	...	...	...	127
Total ...					<hr/> 255

Total attendance, 305; Sessions, 23.

Dr. Fisk makes the following comments :—

One of the great difficulties of the Clinic is in dealing with the temporary dentition of the 'Under five' group of children. When they arrive there for inspection there is generally only one treatment and that is extraction.

Only by early inspection and advice to the mothers on diet and hygiene, can matters be improved. I fully realise, of course, that this is an economic question too.

BENEVOLENT FUND, 1937.

Miss Hammond reports as follows :—

This fund is raised by small donations from mothers attending the Clinic, also from the profits on teas provided. The amount raised during the year, in various ways was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward from 1936 ...	8	1	6
Donations :—			
Dr. M. Ward ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Councillor Ward ...		7	6
Collected in boxes at various Centres ...		6	11
Received from Miss Potter, per tea profits	16	8	11
Total	<hr/> £26	18	4

With regard to expenditure, the cost of sending 2 children and 5 nursing mothers to St. Leonards-on-Sea was £8 13s. 6d. Further expenditure was incurred by provision of surgical appliances, clothing, etc., making a total expenditure of £15 5s. 11d. This left a balance of £11 12s. 5d., which was very satisfactory, after such a good year's work.

Thanks are tendered to various kind friends for generous gifts of clothing, boots, and parcels of groceries.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The Borough of Watford is now responsible for carrying out this work which was formerly done in connection with the old Poor Law Administration. The following figures have been compiled by Miss Hammond:—

Number of persons on register who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year	28
---	-----	-----	-----	----	----

FOSTER CHILDREN.

Coming under observation during 1937	19
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----	----

Number on books at the end of the year	45
--	-----	-----	-----	----	----

(a) 4 were under twelve months.

(b) 47 were over twelve months and under nine years of age

Number who entered Watford with their foster children	4
---	-----	----	---

Removed from observation during the year:

(a) Number given up	4
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(b) Died...	—
-------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(c) Legally adopted	—
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	----	-----	---

(d) Removed to Institutions	—
-----------------------------	-----	-----	----	----	---

(e) Left Watford	4
------------------	-----	----	----	-----	----	---

(f) Reached the age of nine	5
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----	---

Remaining under observation:

(a) Under twelve months	7
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----	---

(b) Over twelve months	38
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----	----

TOTAL	...	45
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Total number of visits paid	217
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

DENTAL CLINIC.—A dental clinic is held for nursing and expectant mothers and for children under five years of age. The work is steadily increasing and 255 cases received treatment during the past year. Twenty-two sessions were held. Twelve mothers were provided with new dentures, either whole or partial sets, in one case the whole of the cost was paid by the Council, and in other cases assistance was given by paying part of the cost.

MILK (MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN'S) ORDER, 1920.

The object of giving grants of free milk to necessitous cases under this order is to ensure improvement of nutrition in both mother and child. There is careful investigation of all cases by the Health Visitor, due care being taken to avoid overlapping with charitable and other organisations performing a similar work. The amount of milk granted has not been limited to one pint per day

in cases where more was necessary, and in some instances grants of dried milk were made, also malt and cod liver oil where this was necessary. Altogether 199 cases were assisted in 1937 as compared with 161 in the previous year. There has been a tendency to increase the number of cases year by year. This does not necessarily indicate an increased number of necessitous cases, but rather greater care in discovering and investigating the cases. If this has resulted in greater expenditure of money, it can only be said that money spent on maintaining the national physique is money well spent. The following table gives an account of expenditure for the last seven years.

EXPENDITURE ON FREE MILK.

	Fresh Milk.			Dried Milk.			TOTAL.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
March, 1930, to March, 1931 ...	75	0	0	43	5	8	108	5	8
March, 1931, to March, 1932 ...	84	7	1	44	16	0	126	3	1
March, 1932, to March, 1933 ...	93	12	4	46	15	3	140	7	7
March, 1933, to March, 1934 ...	72	8	6	38	3	5	110	11	11
March, 1934, to March, 1935 ...	69	3	9	32	18	5	102	2	2
March, 1935, to March, 1936 ...	128	1	0	45	3	0	173	4	0
March, 1936, to March, 1937 ...	199	6	4	78	18	0	278	4	4

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.—As in previous years voluntary workers have played a valuable part in the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme of the Borough. It is necessary to have a considerable amount of voluntary work at the four centres to supplement the work of paid officers, in addition to work on committees. One sub-committee has also given great help in the selection of cases for grants of free milk, etc., Altogether this work has been most valuable and helpful in every way.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.—Under the Notification of Births Acts 1907 and 1915 all births should be notified to the M.O.H. within 36 hours. Persons competent to notify are the parent, the medical attendant or the midwife in attendance. If the birth is not notified in this way some delay may occur, owing to the fact that the information is then obtained through the Registrar of Births, a period of six weeks being allowed for registration.

The following list gives the number of births notified from various sources including 22 still births:—

Notified by:—

(a) Medical Practitioners and Parents ...	146
(b) Midwives	692
(c) Registrar of Births, not having been previously notified	88
	<hr/>
	926
	<hr/>

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

This Society has a branch in Watford which deals not only with the Watford district but also with the whole of West and Mid Herts. Mr. H. M. Keet is the inspector, who resides at 7 Marlborough Road, Watford. I am indebted to him for the following report for the year 1937.

CASES DEALT WITH BY THE SOCIETY IN THE WATFORD DISTRICT AND WEST AND MID HERTS BRANCH DURING PERIOD

1/1/37 to 31/12/37.

No. of cases ... 272 No. of children affected ... 701

of these the following were dealt with in WATFORD :

No. of cases ... 120 No. of children affected ... 289

and of this number the following were reported by the Health Visitors and School Nurses, etc. :

No. of cases ... 15 No. of children affected ... 28

6 recommended for the wearing of glasses by School Medical Officer. Parents refused to obtain. All these children were provided with glasses after warning by the Inspector.

5 verminous.

10 in filthy home surroundings due entirely to parental neglect.

6 parents neglecting to adequately maintain.

1 girl in serious moral danger.

H. M. KEET, *Inspector N.S.P.C.C.*

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS, WATFORD AREA, 1937.

The Medical Officer of Health of the Borough of Watford is responsible for the medical inspection of the following schools—Technical, Leavesden C.E., Leggatts Way, Chater, Field, Parkgate Road, Holy Rood Roman Catholic, Beechen Grove Boys, Higher Elementary and Beechen Grove Special, and the following report, therefore, relates chiefly to these schools. For a fuller account of medical inspection of school children, the Annual Report of the County School Medical Officer should be consulted.

The children of these schools constitute about half the total number in the elementary schools of the Borough, the remaining schools in the town being dealt with by Dr. Buchanan.

The following groups of children were inspected :—

- (1) Those children just admitted to school—entrants.
- (2) Children born in the year 1929 known as the intermediate group.
- (3) The group known as “leavers”, in which are included all those children known to be on the point of leaving and those who have not previously been examined.

In all 1,389 children were examined in the course of routine inspection. Of these 1,389 children 486 children (or 35 per cent.) were found to be suffering from defects which required medical treatment. Altogether the 486 children were suffering from 541 defects, as it is quite common for one child to have two conditions which require treatment, as, e.g., enlarged tonsils and carious teeth.

TREATMENT OF AILMENTS FOUND.—In the majority of cases, treatment was obtained promptly by parents, on, or shortly after, receiving notification of the defect from the medical inspector.

The following table gives a list of ailments for which parents were advised to obtain treatment either at the hands of their family doctor, or at the Dental Clinic, or in the case of enlarged tonsils, by operative or other treatment by the staff of the Peace Memorial Hospital or their own medical attendant. The results of this procedure are also shown in the table. The figures below refer only to cases which were advised to obtain treatment at a clinic or other medical institution. In addition to these, advice was given in many cases about conditions not included in these figures.

Disease.	Number of children affected.		Number treated.		Under treatment.		No action taken by parents.	
Carious Teeth ...	278	...	218	...	59	...	1	
Tonsils and Adenoids ...	43	...	42	...	—	...	1	
Defective Vision ...	171	...	163	...	8	...	—	
Orthopædic cases	5	...	5	...	—	...	—	

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.—During the past year there has been a comparatively small number of operations for these conditions, 43 as compared with 54 in the previous year. Expectant treatment was adopted in cases where this was possible, only the more urgent cases being dealt with surgically. Conditions which were considered to indicate operation were as follows—obstruction to breathing, repeated colds or tonsillitis, cervical adenitis, and cases where there was considerable discharge from the ear, deafness and mouth breathing. In many cases the child was referred to its own medical attendant for observation, with the advice that operative treatment would be provided later if required.

DEFECTIVE VISION.—For this condition 171 children were dealt with in the last year as compared with 164 in the previous year.

It is satisfactory to find that spectacles have been provided for a large number of cases during the past year, owing to interest in the matter taken both by parents and teachers. It is important that this care should be exercised at an early stage in the child's educational career, if possible as soon as the child enters school, or in bad cases before entering a school. Hence the value of the pre-school examination of the child which is carried out at the Toddlers' Clinic. In connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme an eye specialist has recently been appointed.

CARIOUS TEETH.—The figures for the year show that there is very little opposition to treatment on the part of parents or children. Parents, instead of raising objections to dental treatment, are now very willing for it to be given, and frequently ask for it for their children.

MALNUTRITION.—No extreme cases of malnutrition have been observed during the past year, although there is always a certain proportion of children who are below the average standard of height and weight. In the majority of cases of this type there is no doubt that the extra ration of milk provided at school is very beneficial. For those children whose parents are unable to afford the cost of school milk, this can be supplied free, but it is first necessary to obtain a medical certificate of need from a medical inspector of schools. This is readily given in cases where the child is suffering from anaemia or where growth appears to be retarded from lack of nourishment.

ORTHOPÆDIC CASES.—Five cases are mentioned in the list of those which received special treatment these cases being dealt with at the Red Cross Clinic in Grosvenor Road. The work of the Red Cross Clinic is particularly valuable, not only for school cases but also in the case of the pre-school child. A large number of these cases were referred for treatment from the Infant Welfare Centres.

CLEANLINESS.—Children are inspected with regard to cleanliness at the time of routine inspection and also by the School Nurse who makes regular visits to all the schools for this purpose. During the last year inspections of this kind have been held in

various schools on 103 occasions, and in addition reinspections were held on 269 occasions. Altogether there were 24,667 inspections and reinspections of children. The value of this work is beyond question. It is found to be most necessary after school holidays, and its continuance ensures a high standard of cleanliness in the schools. Again one is able to report that more inspections have been held during the past year than in previous years as the School Nurse has had some assistance in the work. It is very rarely necessary to exclude children from school on account of live vermin.

DISINFECTION OF CLASSROOMS.—The usual disinfection of classrooms has been carried out by spraying with formalin followed by cleansing and free ventilation. During the year this has been performed 39 times compared with 42 disinfections in 1935. The number of occasions for disinfection was not very large during the year and in each case was on account of the occurrence of Scarlet Fever in a school. These occurred during the year as follows:—January 2, February 4, March 7, April 3, May 2, June 5, July 3, September 3, November 5, December 5. Total 39. In addition precautions were taken by inspection of “Contacts” in the same class as the cases which occurred.

SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.—No complaints have been received during the last year with regard to insanitary conditions in connection with schools or school lavatories. Most of the sanitary appliances are of a good type, but a few trough closets still remain. It is desirable that these should be abolished as soon as possible.

CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS AND PARENTS.—Much valuable assistance in the work of medical inspection has been given by the teachers. In some cases the Head Teacher has attended the inspection in addition to the parent and has been able to give valuable information about the child's mental and physical condition. It is also most important for the parent to be present at the inspection. In the absence of the parent the examination loses half its value, as the medical examiner cannot be fully informed about the medical history of the child without hearing the parent's version of it. On the other hand it is useful to be able to give advice to the parent personally about the child's health, this means of communication being more valuable than the formal printed notice about the defects found.

X. DENTAL TREATMENT.

In addition to the School dental work for which the Herts County Council is responsible, there is also a Dental Clinic in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. The following figures, however, for which I am indebted to Mr. C. H. Powell, refer to the work in connection with School children. Statistics relating to the Dental Treatment of Mothers and Infants will be found in the section of the Report dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare.

				Totals for period April, 1921 to Dec. 1937		
Number of children examined at School	...	1,218	...	25,175		
" " with sound dentures	...	479	...	10,360		
Attendances of Dentists :—						
Mr. A. C. Wilson (half day)	...	124	}	2,541		
Mr. L. Dinnis (half day)	...	40				
Mr. S. F. Fisk (half day)	...	40				
Attendances of children	...	2,986	...	39,253		
Average Attendance—Wednesdays (2 sessions)		31·3	}	15·4		
" " Fridays (morning)	...	11·9				
" " Fridays (afternoon)	...	14·6				
Number of children treated with Nitrous Oxide						
Gas	...	1,378	...	12,361		
Attendances of Dr. Reynolds (Anæsthetist)	...	62	...	509		
Average number treated per attendance	...	22·6	...	24·1		
FILLINGS	{ 1st Permanent Molar	...	312	}	10,431	
	{ Other Permanent Teeth	...	311			
	{ Temporary Teeth	...	10			
EXTRACTIONS	{ Permanent Teeth	...	997	...	8,071	
	{ Temporary Teeth	...	4,102	...	50,898	
OTHER OPERATIONS :—						
Scaling, Dressing, etc.	...	122	...	1,411		

DETAILS—PERMANENT TEETH.

FILLINGS.				EXTRACTIONS.			
No. 1	...	...	126	No. 1	...	...	13
2	...	...	87	2	...	...	12
3	...	...	9	3	...	...	13
4	...	...	15	4	...	...	57
5	...	...	25	5	...	...	93
6	...	...	312	6	...	...	763
7	...	...	49	7	...	...	45
8	...	...	—	8	...	...	1
Total				Total			
...				...			
623				997			

XI. WATFORD JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

During the year 1937 the number of cases admitted to hospital was 236 as compared with 242 in 1936. The number of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria admitted was slightly more than in the previous year, and a large number of non-notifiable diseases were admitted. The admission of an increasing number of measles, whooping cough and chicken pox has ensured that the cubicle wards have been well occupied for the greater part of the year. The operating theatre is available for cases needing surgical operations, when complicated by infectious disease which renders their admission to a general hospital impossible. With regard to erysipelas, 17 cases were admitted compared with 16 in the previous year. The idea that an infectious diseases hospital is an institution for the reception of diphtheria and scarlet fever with an occasional case of erysipelas or enteric fever is now a thing of the past. There is no reason why there should not be an increasing use of the hospital for severe cases of measles and whooping cough, especially when complicated by pneumonia. Even cases of mumps and chicken pox require removal when they occur in an institution.

The figures for the year 1937 were as follows:—

In Hospital, 1st January, 1937	...	...	...	17
Cases admitted from Watford Borough	...	...	...	158
„ „ „ Watford Rural District	...	...	...	36
„ „ „ Rickmansworth U.D.C.	...	...	...	23
„ „ „ Bushey U.D.C.	...	...	...	13
„ „ „ Chorleywood U.D.C.	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ St. Albans	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ Hemel Hempstead	...	...	...	3
„ „ „ East Barnet	...	...	...	1
TOTAL				253
				<hr/>
Patients discharged—cured—during 1937	...	...	...	220
„ died in Hospital during 1937	...	...	...	4
„ still in Hospital, 1st January, 1938	...	...	...	29
				<hr/>
				253
				<hr/>

The 29 cases in hospital, 1st January, 1938, consisted of 21 scarlet fever, 4 diphtheria, 1 poliomyelitis, 1 enteric, 1 measles and 1 tonsillitis.

The following table gives the number of cases admitted from each district, and the total number of cases of each disease.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES ADMITTED FROM
THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN 1937.

District	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Poliomyelitis	Enteric	Vincent's Angina	Conjunctivitis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Chicken Pox	Tonsillitis	Mumps	Pneumonia	Impetigo	Totals
Watford Borough ...	87	29	11	1	1	1	1	1	3	5	16	2	—	—	—	158
Watford Rural ...	16	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	14	—	1	36
Bushey Urban ...	5	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Rickmansworth Urban ...	13	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	1	—	23
Chorleywood Urban ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
St. Albans Rural ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hemel Hempstead ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
East Barnet ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	122	32	17	1	5	2	1	1	13	7	16	2	15	1	1	236

The number of deaths which occurred in the hospital was as follows:—diphtheria 2, erysipelas 1, whooping cough 1. Total 4.

The above table shows that a greater variety of cases of infectious disease has been admitted than in any previous year. This has been made possible by means of the new cubicle block, which has been in continuous use throughout the year for many of the above-mentioned diseases. There are now greater facilities for the isolation of cases for observation, which is of the greatest value in dealing with infectious disease. Thus, for example, to mention one disease in particular, suspicious or doubtful cases of diphtheria can be admitted to the hospital and isolated in an observation ward. It is important that such cases should be admitted at once, without waiting for the result of a swab. The same policy should be carried out with regard

to doubtful cases of other infectious diseases, i.e., immediate removal to the isolation hospital for observation. This can only be done with ample accommodation in the way of cubicle wards.

With regard to the new block (No. 6) which includes new wards for diphtheria with two separation wards and an operating theatre, also 12 cubicles, it may be said that this improvement has been amply justified. The whole of this new block is now in continuous use and it has more than proved its value. All modern isolation hospitals are making more and more use of the cubicle system. Certain of the newer isolation hospitals are being constructed so that one third of their bed accommodation is made up of cubicles. It would be a great advantage to the Watford Joint Isolation Hospital if more cubicles could be constructed to be used for scarlet fever cases. It has been suggested in some quarters that isolation hospitals will soon become a thing of the past, on the assumption that epidemics of infectious disease will be stamped out entirely in the near future. There are no facts at present to warrant this assumption, although it is an undoubted fact that epidemics are neither so numerous nor so extensive as in the past. In addition, most infectious diseases tend to become milder in type, probably on account of isolation of the worst cases in hospital. Judging by present conditions it appears that isolation hospitals will still continue to be useful, and further that their use will be extended owing to the isolation of *all* infectious fevers, not only scarlet fever and diphtheria. It is the aim of the modern isolation hospital not only to separate infectious disease cases from the general population, but also to nurse these cases back to health. Any result which falls short of this ideal should be considered unsatisfactory.

APPENDIX—INCUBATION AND EXCLUSION PERIODS OF THE COMMONER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table is published for the information of head teachers and others interested in the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. It is practically identical with the table published in the official Memorandum on Closure and Exclusion from School issued jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education.

It is necessary to have a uniform method of dealing with this matter in all the schools of the Borough and hence the value of publication of this table.

Disease	Incubation period	Interval between onset of illness and appearance of rash	Period of Exclusion.	
			Patient	Contacts
Scarlet Fever	1-8 days	1-2 days	Three weeks after return from hospital, or in the case of patients treated at home, three weeks after release from isolation.	One week after removal of patient to hospital, or in the case of patients at home one week after release from isolation.
Diphtheria	2-10 days	—	Three weeks after end of attack; or until pronounced free from infection by a medical practitioner.	Two weeks after removal of patient to hospital, or in the case of patients treated at home, ten days after release from isolation.
Measles	7-14 days	4 days	Three weeks from date of appearance of rash.	Infants and other children, who have not had the disease, three weeks from date of onset of last case in house.
German Measles	5-21 days	0-2 days	One week from the date of appearance of rash.	Infants and other children, who have not had the disease, three weeks from date of last exposure to patient with rash.
Whooping Cough...	6-18 days	—	Six weeks from commencement of cough.	Infants only, for six weeks from date of onset of last case, or three weeks from date of last exposure to infection.
Mumps ...	12-23 days	—	Until one week after subsidence of swelling.	No exclusion.
Chicken Pox	11-21 days	0-2 days	Three weeks, or until all scabs have disappeared.	Infants and other children, who have not had the disease, three weeks from date of last exposure to infection.
Smallpox	10-14 but usually 12 days	3 days	Six weeks, or until the patient is certified free from infection by a medical practitioner.	Sixteen days unless recently vaccinated, when exclusion is unnecessary.

